

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

According to a further aspect of the present invention, the amino acid sequence and nucleotide sequence as shown in Fig. 2 can also be used for the production of a preparation for the prophylaxis and therapy of diseases that show supranormal vWF content or an increased level of high-molecular weight vWF in patients. This can result in thromboses and thromboembolic diseases. For example, thrombotic thrombocytic purpura (TTP), Henoch-Schönlein purpura, preeclampsia, neonatal thrombocytopenia or hemolyticuremic syndrome. ~~By administering~~ **Administration** of an effective dose of a polypeptide having a vWF protease activity and having an amino acid sequence as shown in Fig.2, ~~this~~ can lead to reduction of the content of high molecular weight vWF multimers in the patients, resulting in effective therapy of these diseases. The invention is described in the following examples, without being limited thereto.